



Mailed: September 24, 2003

NOTIFICATION OF REASONS FOR REJECTION

Patent Application No.: 042402/93

Examiner's Notice Date: September 18, 2003

Examiner: K. Tokuda

This application is rejected on the grounds stated below. Any opinion about the rejection must be filed within 60 DAYS of the mailing date hereof.

REASONS

1. The inventions according to claims indicated below in the present application are unpatentable under Section 29 (2) of the Patent Law, as being such that the inventions could easily have been made by a person with ordinary skill in the art to which the inventions pertain, on the basis of the inventions described in publications, indicated below, distributed in Japan or a foreign country prior to this application.
2. The inventions according to claims indicated below in the present application is unpatentable under section 29^{bis} of the Patent Law on the grounds that the inventions are considered the same as the invention described in the specification and the drawings originally attached to the request of an application indicated below, which was filed before, and disclosed after, the filing date of this application and that the inventor of the present application is not considered to be the inventor of the cited application, and at the time of the filing of this application, the applicant is not considered to be the applicant of the cited application.
3. The application fails to satisfy the requirements under Section 36 (5) (ii) and (6) of the Patent Law, on the grounds that the claims are defective in respects stated below.
4. The application fails to satisfy the requirements under Section 36 (4) of the Patent Law, on the grounds that the specification and the drawings are defective in a respect stated below.

REMARKS

References Cited:

1. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 5-30520
2. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 57-131188
3. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 62-247692
4. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 62-195984
5. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 64-34073
6. Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 4-269793
7. Japanese Patent Application No. 4-328009 (Jpn. Pat. Appln. KOKAI Publication No. 6-178327)

Re: Reason 1

Re: Claims 1 and 2

References 1-6 are applicable to claims 1 and 2.

As disclosed in references 1-3, an invention is known in which when a number of images having an overlapping area are projected onto a screen to form a single image, displacement of the images is corrected.

Furthermore, as disclosed in references 4-6, an invention is also known in which when a number of images having an overlapping area are projected onto a screen to form a single image, the change in brightness at the overlapping area is made inconspicuous.

Re: Claims 3-5

References 1-6 are applicable to claims 3-5.

References 1-3 disclose that an image projected on a screen by an image pickup means is picked up, and the projection positions of a number of images are corrected on the basis of the picked-up image.

Re: Reason 2

Reference 7 is applicable to claims 1 and 2 as senior application.

See reference 7, more particularly the first embodiment.

Re: Reason 3

(1) The invention according to claim 1 cannot be clearly grasped throughout, and it is unclear how the expected object is attained, since image correcting means and displaying means in claim 1 are unclear.

(With respect to the image correcting means, "a number of image signals having an overlapping area" is recited, but its meaning is technically unclear since the image signal is an electric signal, and does not have an area.)

Furthermore, it is unclear whether "correct . . . to obtain a continuous image signal" means that a single image signal is obtained, or a single combined image is obtained when being displayed by the displaying means, or has another meaning. Its meaning cannot be limited to one meaning.

In addition, with respect to the displaying means, "display a number of image signals corrected by the image correcting means" is recited. However, the image signals corrected by the image correcting means are unclear, since the image correcting means is unclear as stated above. Therefore, the displaying means which displays the image signals is unclear, and it is also unclear how they are displayed (even the premise of the present invention, i.e., the following point, is not disclosed: a number of images are combined and displayed on the screen by a number of projecting means).

(2) The inventions according to claims 2-5 are also unclear throughout. Thus, it cannot be recognized that the expected object can be attained.

Re: Claim 2

With respect to "interpolation calculation means", "displacement of a number of image signal queries" (which should be corrected if it is a typographical error) is unclear, since "a number of image signals" is unclear as

stated in above item (1). Further, it is not specified how the above unclear "displacement of image signal queries" is corrected, and it is therefore unclear.

Furthermore, as stated in above item (1), "a number of image signals" is unclear, and "joint between a number of image signals" is also unclear.

Accordingly, "brightness conversion means for correcting brightness of the joint between the image signals" is unclear.

Re: Claim 3

It is recited that "image pickup means comprising an image pickup element for performing an image pickup operation with respect to displaying means". However, since the displaying means is unclear, the image pickup means is also unclear (it is unclear whether the displaying means corresponds to a screen in the embodiment or an LCD, or corresponds to both of them. It should be noted that it is recognized that the image projected on the screen is picked up in the embodiment).

Furthermore, with respect to the image correcting means, it is recited that "a number of image positional relationships displayed by the displaying means". However, it is not specified that the image positional relationships are displayed by the displaying means (it is guessed that images are displayed by the displaying means).

Re: Claim 4

It is recited that "the image pickup means shares part of an optical system of the displaying means". However, "part of the optical system" cannot be specified and is thus unclear, since the structure of the optical system is not specified and is thus unclear.

Re: Claim 5

Since the above points stated with respect to claim 2 are unclear,

"displacement" in claim 5 is also unclear in meaning.

Therefore, it is not recognized that claims 1-5 recite only structural elements which are indispensable for an invention for which a patent is sought.

Re: Reason 4

As mentioned in above Reason 3, it cannot be recognized that the inventions according to claims 1-4 can achieve the expected object. Therefore, it cannot be recognized that the object and advantages associated with the inventions according to claims 1-5 are disclosed in the detailed description of the invention.

The claim not mentioned in this Official Action is not rejected. If a new reason for rejection is noticed, a further Official Action will be issued.